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REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 19th April 1902.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)— <i>Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—</i>	
England's foreign policy	163	Refreshment-rooms for Indian passengers	165
		A suggestion	ib.
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(h)— <i>General—</i>	
(a)— <i>Police—</i>		Agricultural Banks	165
Protection of the Police	163	"The Resources of Despair"	ib.
Police rule in Jessore	ib.	The Army estimates	166
Ditto	164	The total cost of Cooper's Hill borne by India	ib.
Police reform in India	ib.	The Finance Minister on the Budget	ib.
(b)— <i>Working of the Courts—</i>		III.—LEGISLATION.	
The Kharagpur assault case	164	Nil.	
(c)— <i>Jails—</i>		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Nil.		Nil.	
(d)— <i>Education—</i>		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
The season for the University Examinations	164	Plagues Notices in the <i>Gazette of India</i>	
Young Indians and American Universities	ib.	167	
(e)— <i>Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—</i>		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
The new Municipal building tender	165	The Model Building for the poor	
A huge jobbery	ib.	Coronation festivities	
(f)— <i>Questions affecting the Land—</i>		167	
Nil.		ib.	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

544. A glance at present European politics shows the *Hindoo Patriot* that the Germans will prove the most active of England's foreign policy. England's enemies, as they have an overwhelming interest in breaking down her maritime power. If this is ever done, continues the *Patriot*, it will be effected by the help of Russia and France. This alliance would indeed prove too much for England. Her foreign policy should therefore be directed towards averting such a catastrophe, and this can only be done by an understanding with Russia, which would carry with it the amity of France.

In the next issue of this paper, the adoption of a conciliatory policy towards Russia is again urged, and an opportunity for doing so in the Persian Gulf is indicated. As no future trouble can arise from Russia's presence in Persia, the *Hindoo Patriot* urges its concession as the safest policy England can adopt.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
8th April 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

545. Referring to the Government policy of protecting the police as long as possible, as shown in the case of Daroga Osman Ali, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* condemns the action of the District Magistrates of Burdwan, Mymensingh, and Jessore, who have issued orders to their subordinate Magistrates never to entertain any complaint against the police without their permission. Such measures are bad in law and policy, and their effects demoralising to the police.

Members of the force deserve no protection in wrong-doing. They are deservedly unpopular, but the Magistrates can effect a reformation by holding the balance evenly.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th April 1902.

546. Commenting on the illegality of the Jessore District Magistrate's standing order forbidding the subordinate judiciary from proceeding against an erring police officer without sanction, the *Bengalee* condemns the action of Mr. Hallifax in connection with the conduct of Babu Harish Chandra Guha, Inspector of Jhenida.

BENGALÉE,
9th April 1902.

Proceedings against the Inspector on a charge of defamation were stayed by the District Magistrate even after the issue of process.

The case of Sub-Inspector Sasi Bhusan Sarkar is also a specimen of the Inspector's conduct under the *ægis* of the District Officer. The Sub-Inspector was charged with having interviewed a proclaimed offender and refrained from arresting him on an illegal consideration. The result of the Sub-divisional Officer, Mr. Cammiade's enquiry in this matter has never been disclosed by Mr. Hallifax, who refused to place it on the record, and did not allow even the Sessions Judge of Jessore to see it during the hearing of Sasi Bhusan's appeal. Further, the case was made over for disposal to the Subdivisional Officer of Magura instead of to Mr. Cammiade, or his successor, Mr. Dev. These and other proceedings of Mr. Hallifax showed clearly that he was not impartial in dealing with Sasi Bhusan.

The latter was convicted and sentenced to a fine of Rs. 300, but an appeal to the Sessions Judge resulted in his being acquitted, and the case pronounced "false" and "got up at the instance of the Inspector."

The journal is curious to know what relief Mr. Hallifax proposes to afford Sasi, who has been the victim of his own imbecility and shortsightedness.

Harish Chandra Guha did not spare even Mr. Cammiade, a Covenanted Civilian, but unblushingly designated him a supporter of dacoits and other infamous characters.

His conduct remains unchecked; no heed has been paid to the reports of Messrs. Cammiade and Dev against this pet officer of the Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police, and the Inspector-General of Police's orders for Harish's suspension have been "kept in abeyance."

BENGALUR.
10th April 1902.

547. With reference to the Magistrate's "Standing Orders," by virtue of which Inspector Harish Chandra Guha obtains immunity from the proceedings of the law courts, the *Bengalee* writes:—

"It is no use trying to reform the police or spending money upon its improvement when the police are permitted to be pampered by Magistrates in this fashion. A spoilt child is never amenable to the influences of reform. If the police are to be a pampered Force enjoying special immunities and privileges, then we have no hesitation in saying that it is vain to expect any improvement in their efficiency under any system of reform. We beg to call the attention of Government to the extraordinary standing order which the Magistrate of Jessore has apparently passed. We trust he will be promptly asked to withdraw it. Such an order is fatal to the discipline of the police who, under its protection, would naturally consider themselves to be a privileged class. We have too many privileged classes already. Let us not add another to the list."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th April 1902.

548. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is gratified at the speech of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in the Supreme Council on the Reform of the Police, and is of

opinion that that speech will render Sir John Woodburn's rule memorable.

As pointing to the urgency of reform in this Department, the *Patrika* draws attention to what it describes as police rule in Jessore, where the Jhenida Inspector, Harish Chandra Guha, acting under the protection of the District Magistrate, Mr. Hallifax, "with whom he figured in that sensational case in which Maharaja Surja Kant was involved," is accused of making imputations against respectable gentlemen, not even excepting Mr. Cammiade, the late Subdivisional Officer of Jhenida.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th April 1902.

549. Continuing its articles on this subject, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—

The Kharagpur assault case. "And is this Mr. Marr to be let loose in India to administer justice and stamp out crime? What have the unfortunate Indians done to deserve this?

"Let the unfortunate clerk give up the idea of fighting and rely entirely on Sir John Woodburn's sense of justice."

(d)—Education.

BENGALUR,
10th April 1902.

550. The *Bengalee* complains of the unwisdom of holding the University Examinations at the accustomed time, as a large number of students are brought to Calcutta when it is most unhealthy.

It appeals to Sir John Woodburn for an expeditious reversion to the old rules of holding them in December, as several cases have come to notice where students have been unable to attend owing to cholera or some other infectious disease.

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th April 1902.

551. Commenting on the information that recently two hundred more young Japanese have been sent to America by the Government of Japan to study in American Universities, the *Indian Mirror* writes in glowing terms of the advantages reaped by the nation as shown by their glorious progress. It strongly advises India to follow this example, and suggests that a committee be formed headed by men interested in the country's welfare. They should select 50 of the brightest students who are known to be of good moral character and send them to one of the first class Universities in California.

The passage from Calcutta to San Francisco *via* Japan and the cost of living in California are comparatively moderate. The scheme if taken in hand by men of earnest purpose would doubtless prove a success and be highly beneficial to India.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

552. Although satisfied that the controversy over the new Municipal building tender has come to an end, and that Messrs. Sarat Kumar and Hemendra Nath's tender has been accepted, the *Bengalee* remarks that when this firm's tender was first submitted, it included the cost of the appointment of Mr. Arundel, Architect, to supervise the works as also the expenses of supervision. But now, as the result of bungling, the Corporation has to pay Rs. 26,000 plus Rs. 30,000, the cost of supervision. The journal inweighs against the "supineness" of the Municipal Executive, who are responsible for thus wasting the rate-payers' money.

BENGALIAN,
14th April 1902.

553. The *Bengalee* cannot understand what good is served by Mr. Silk's re nomination as member of the General Committee of the Corporation when he is now on leave several thousands of miles away.

BENGALIAN,
13th April 1902.

Rai Kshetter Nath Chatterjee Bahadur, who has a varied experience and would certainly have been a valuable acquisition to the Committee, would have been a useful substitute, and the journal wonders why he has been shelved in this way.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

554. As nothing has yet been done in the direction of refreshment-rooms for Indian passengers, the *Bengalee* again calls the attention of the Railway Administrations to this pressing question, and earnestly hopes that prompt action will be taken for the removal of this grievance which is widely felt.

BENGALIAN,
9th April 1902.

555. The *Bengalee* writes :—

A suggestion. "We are afraid there is an anomaly in the new rates for Postal money-orders which have just come in force. Remittances of sums not exceeding Rs. 5 are charged for at the rate of one anna, those not exceeding Rs. 10 are charged two annas, and remittances of over Rs. 10 and up to Rs. 25 are charged four annas. Now suppose a man has to remit Rs. 15. If he remits the sum by two money-orders of Rs. 10 and Rs. 5, respectively, he will have to pay three annas for the two money-orders. But if he remits the same amount by a single money-order he will have to pay four annas. We are sure we have only to draw the attention of the Director-General of Post Offices to this anomaly to have it removed."

BENGALIAN,
6th April 1902.

(h)—General.

556. In connection with the agricultural banks which are being inaugurated by the Government of Bengal, the *Behar Herald* appeals to Lord Curzon for Government support, as the Indian raiyat wants cheap capital and Government alone can secure it for him. Besides, the chronic depression of this class demands the help of the State.

BEHAR HERALD,
9th April 1902.

In conclusion, it remarks that, "if the raiyat's good is the ruler's sceptre," the Government of India, as chief landlord, is distinctly bound to relieve the wretchedness of its tenants.

557. When, writes the *Bengalee*, a Government pays no heed to the wishes of the people, when the people find that Government is bent upon passing a certain law or adopting a certain measure, notwithstanding the strongest protest of those who will be affected by such law or measure, they have two courses open to them—either to rise in revolt, or to seek to thwart their rulers by indirect means.

BENGALIAN,
9th April 1902.

Now, the Oriental does not openly oppose Government, but he often gains his point by that "passive resistance" which his philosophy suggests or imagination invents.

The *Bengalee* points to a typical case which occurred in Jullundur, when an ingenious plan was hit upon for scaring away the Plague officers from enforcing the Plague Regulations there, and advises the Government to take to heart the lesson which is presented by an incident of this kind.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th April 1902.

558. Answering the enquiries of their supporters in England as to what the Indians contemplate doing to avoid the military burden Mr. Brodrick's scheme imposes on this country, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* replies that the Indians are not going to do anything. Twenty years ago every movement of the Government was watched with keen interest, but now the people have absolutely given that up. Why, asks the journal, should a man go on doing a thing over and over again when it does not pay? As for the Army scheme, the *Patrika* says that the Government of India will enter a feeble protest. The members of the India Government have no motive to quarrel with the British Government over the matter. Why should they do so for India? The army estimates do not meddle with their pay and prospects, so they have no motive to go out of their way to protect the interests of India.

Yet the *Patrika* believes that Lord Curzon will not easily permit the imposition of this burden upon India in view of its impoverishment and the famine.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th April 1902.

559. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asks, with reference to Lord George Hamilton's reply to Mr. Herbert Roberts' question as to the amount borne by India in connection with Cooper's Hill College:—

The total cost of Cooper's Hill borne by India.

And did not Lord George Hamilton, when replying to the question, realize the gross injustice to India that his reply suggested? Here was an institution founded in England with Indian money. And why? Simply to train Europeans and deprive the Indians of their birthright. Those officials who are connected with India have to take good care of themselves so that their sense of justice is not deadened. The proper course for the British Government is to return to India the money spent on this account, and then to abolish the College altogether. Did Lord George Hamilton wince when he replied to the question of Mr. Roberts? Possibly not.

BENGALIEE,
13th April 1902.

560. In the opinion of the *Bengalee*, who devotes over three columns to his remarks on the budget, the attitude which Sir E. Law assumed in the Council was one of desperate defence, and not of sincere willingness to correct the mistakes of the past and to improve the administration in the future. In spite of the profuse expressions of rejoicings and gratifications on the increasing prosperity of the country, the reluctance on the part of Government to remit at least four annas per maund of the Salt duty and to raise the exemption limit of income-tax is, continues the writer, not only ungraceful, but betrays a want of sympathy for the poorest classes. . . . No financier, especially no Indian financier, can foretell with confidence the persistence of a surplus for all time to come, and accordingly no measure of reduction of taxation can be decided on unless the financier is endowed with a superhuman amount of prescience. Five consecutive years of surpluses ought to afford an ordinary human being sufficient experience to judge of the general financial condition of the Empire; and the Government would have made a better use of public money if it had given relief to the peasantry, even for a short period, instead of making extravagant grants on railways and the Army.

The Finance Minister on the budget.

It then goes on to affirm that, if any temporary remission of taxation were followed by heavy deficits, it could be reimposed without any difficulty; and that if, as in 1893—*vide* the Government of India's Despatch of the 1st August of that year—it was considered high public duty to face a deficit of 100 lakhs and to abrogate the canons of sound finance in the interests of a few high-paid officers of Government, it is a still higher duty to remit a few lakhs of taxation which press severely on the poor, especially as such remissions would not result in a deficit.

Commenting on the Finance Minister's assertion that there has been an improvement in the condition of the general population, the *Bengalee* says that there is a stratum of the population, who constitute 80 per cent. of the numerical strength of India, who are labourers in the field all their lives, who hardly use imported articles, are ignorant of Savings Banks, and who view railways as a means of furnishing labour for them during famines. If this stratum used imported articles, resorted to railways and the Savings Banks,

the revenues of the Empire would be twice 75 million pounds sterling as at present.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

561. The *Hindoo Patriot* says that the plague notices appearing in the *Gazette of India* forbidding railway booking to "any persons intending to proceed to" various religious gatherings and cattle fairs in different parts of the country, impose a "vague" responsibility on railway administrations which cannot be satisfactorily discharged. If the Government were to order a temporary cessation of all bookings without personal distinction to places where fairs are to be or are being held, the situation would be simplified, although, even in that case, those bent on going to a certain destination could find a way of eluding restrictions; but the peculiar wording of the customary order, as quoted above, indicates that while the Government shrinks from this extreme measure, it places upon the unfortunate booking clerk, always an Indian, the obligation to decide, offhand, who among the intending travellers are pilgrims and who are not. As a result, angry scenes are not uncommon at some railway stations, in which crowds of suspected pilgrims stoutly maintain that pilgrimage is the last thought in their minds, and that urgent business alone calls them to their intended destinations. To book such people or to refuse to book them equally involves the risk of doing the wrong thing, and there does appear to be a real need for taking the difficulty into serious consideration, with a view to relieving ticket-issuing Indians of a duty in which considerable doubt exists.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
11th April 1902.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

562. The *Indian Mirror* characterises as vague and unlikely to fulfilment the hope that the Model Building for the poor and working classes in Calcutta just opened by the Lieutenant-Governor will be the pioneer of many such buildings which will remove the need of *bustis*. The Chairman of the Corporation seems to share this doubt, owing to the rent being likely to prove prohibitive for the mere *busti* occupant.

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th April 1902.

Such buildings, it suggests, should be erected near the Schools and Colleges of Calcutta.

The poorer Europeans and Eurasians dwelling in the vicinity are likely to take full advantage of the new building, in which case the "natives" will have no chance of an "innings," as they will not conform to the *Sahib's* commands.

563. The *Bengalee* regards the feeding of the poor of London which His Majesty the King is arranging on the occasion of his coronation as peculiarly an Oriental idea. It asks if the Government of India will not follow His Majesty's example, and, if not, it urges some of the rich men of this country to do the needful. Perhaps, it says, the members of the *Sangit Samaj* will do something in this direction to vindicate their tradition.

BENGALIEE,
13th April 1902.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 19th April 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

